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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/509,234	09/25/2000	Pascal Vannuffel	VANM145.001A	9668

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Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP
620 Newport Center Drive
Sixteenth Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660

EXAMINER

MYERS, CARLA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1655

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/509,234

Applicant(s)

VANNUFFEL ET AL.

Examiner

Carla Myers

Art Unit

1655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-11,13-23 and 31-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5-11, 13-23, and 31-42 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1655

RESTRICTION

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-23, 31-33, drawn to nucleic acids, classified in Class 536, subclass 23.7.

II. Claims 34-42, drawn to proteins, classified in Class 530, subclass 350.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are patentably distinct in structure and physicochemical properties. Invention I is drawn to nucleic acids whereas invention II is drawn to proteins. Because nucleic acids are composed of nucleotides and proteins are composed of amino acids, the inventions have different structural and functional properties. Furthermore, the products are utilized in different methodologies, such that nucleic acids may be utilized in hybridization assays, while proteins may be utilized in ligand binding assays or to generate antibodies. Synthesis of the proteins of invention II do not require the particular products of the nucleic acids of invention I since the proteins of invention III can be isolated from natural sources or chemically synthesized.

2.

Sequence Election Requirement Applicable to All Groups

In addition, each invention detailed above reads on patentably distinct inventions drawn to multiple SEQ ID Numbers. The sequences are patentably distinct because they are unrelated sequences, and a further restriction is applied to each invention. For an elected invention drawn to a nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, Applicants must further elect a single nucleic acid or amino acid sequence. It is noted that the SEQ ID NO's recited in the

claims do not appear to correspond to the subject matter claimed. With respect to claims 7-11 and 13-14, the claims are drawn to oligonucleotides, yet many of the sequences recited are actually amino acid sequences (e.g, SEQ ID NO: 41, 43, etc). With respect to claims 34-42, the claims are drawn to proteins, yet the sequences recited consist of nucleotide sequences and not protein sequences. **Accordingly, if Applicant elects invention I, Applicant must further elect a single nucleic acid sequence selected from the group of SEQ ID Nos: 1, 2-39, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56-64. If Applicant elects invention II, then a single amino acid sequence must be selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53 and 55.**

It is noted that nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins from different organisms are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Furthermore, specific fragments of a nucleotide sequence are considered to be distinct over each other. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.14.

Upon election, Applicants are required to amend the claims to set forth only the elected inventive groups.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a different status in the art as demonstrated by their different classification and recognized

divergent subject matter and because inventions I and II require different searches that are not co-extensive, examination of these distinct inventions would pose a serious burden on the examiner and therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

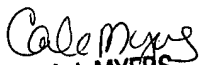
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carla Myers whose telephone number is (703) 308-2199. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached on (703)-308-1152. The fax number for the Technology Center is (703)-305-3014 or (703)-305-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Carla Myers

November 26, 2001


CARLA J. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER